

CLVT- 1101  
ALEX RICE HOUSE  
Port Republic  
Private

early 19th century and circa 1910

This farmhouse began as a sturdy, 1 1/2-story log house with one room downstairs, one up and an attached kitchen. Oral tradition, its construction and its location suggest that it might have been built as a slave house. In 1876 Thomas G. Ireland, a planter, sold this tract of land to George W. and Sarah Jane Rice, a black couple. In the early 20th century their nephew, Alex Rice, added the two-story frame section onto the facade of the original structure. The garden plots and out-buildings were once located behind the house.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CT-111  
CCVT-111

Magi # 0501115604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

THE ALEXANDER AND SARAH JANE RICE HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Turn west on Laveille Rd. at its Jct. with Broome's Island rd.  
Go 0.5 miles, turn on dirt road (north) down a steep hill.  
Continue 0.5 miles to 1st tobacco barn, turn west on dirt  
road (unmarked and abandoned). Drive through woods to end  
of road.

CITY, TOWN

Mutual

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

MD.

COUNTY

Calvert

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☒ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☒ OTHER  
ABANDONED

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

J. B. Waters Realty Co.

Telephone #: 535-0214

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Md.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

Liber #: AAH 23

Folio #: 318

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This abandoned house, now in derelict condition, probably began its history as a small, crudely built log house with 2 rooms and was probably built to house slaves. Like other log houses in Calvert County, the front of the house (N.E.) was the gable end through which a small doorway was cut, making it into a type of one room shotgun house. On the opposite gable end stood a tall chimney with base of large stones. The <sup>log</sup> corners were half dove-tailed. The house rested above the ground on ferrous sandstone foundations. The interior was roughly built: plank floors, <sup>EXPOSED</sup> log walls, and a large open fireplace around which a commercially made mantelpiece of simple and plain design had been added. In the northern corner a narrow steep enclosed "ladder stairway" ascended to the one room upstairs. The ceiling was quite low, with the rough unhewn log joists exposed.

In 1882 Sarah Jane Rice, a black woman who was born shortly before or after emancipation, purchased this land. According to her son, John Thomas Rice, this house was already standing. At this time, she and her husband Alexander, probably added the small one story kitchen to the N.W. side of the house. In the c. 1910 Thomas Rice remembers that his father made drastic changes in the house; <sup>he</sup> lathed and plastered the upstairs, partitioned it into two rooms, and added a full two story balloon frame block to the front of the old house. The features of this new section--its smooth, cream colored lathed and plastered walls and ceiling, its commercially manufactured and more finely finished mantelpiece and window and door trims, and its symmetrically placed, double hung sash windows with 2 x 2 lights (which <sup>more effectively</sup> illuminated the interior) contrast significantly to their counterparts in the original log block.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

CT-111

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		Black History			
		Social History			
SPECIFIC DATES		BUILDER/ARCHITECT		Cultural History	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE					

According to Thomas Rice, this was <sup>an</sup> "old house" when his parents purchased the land in 1882 and was considered to have been a slave house, though no written records are available to substantiate this. The structural evidence does not contravene this oral tradition. The changes to the structure since the purchase by the Rices show the types of improvements in living conditions that rural black families preferred when the opportunities presented themselves.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History &amp; Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



CT-III

Sarah & Alex Rice House

CLYT-III

S.E. View

mutualy ind.

Gwm

16/76





CT-III

Rice House

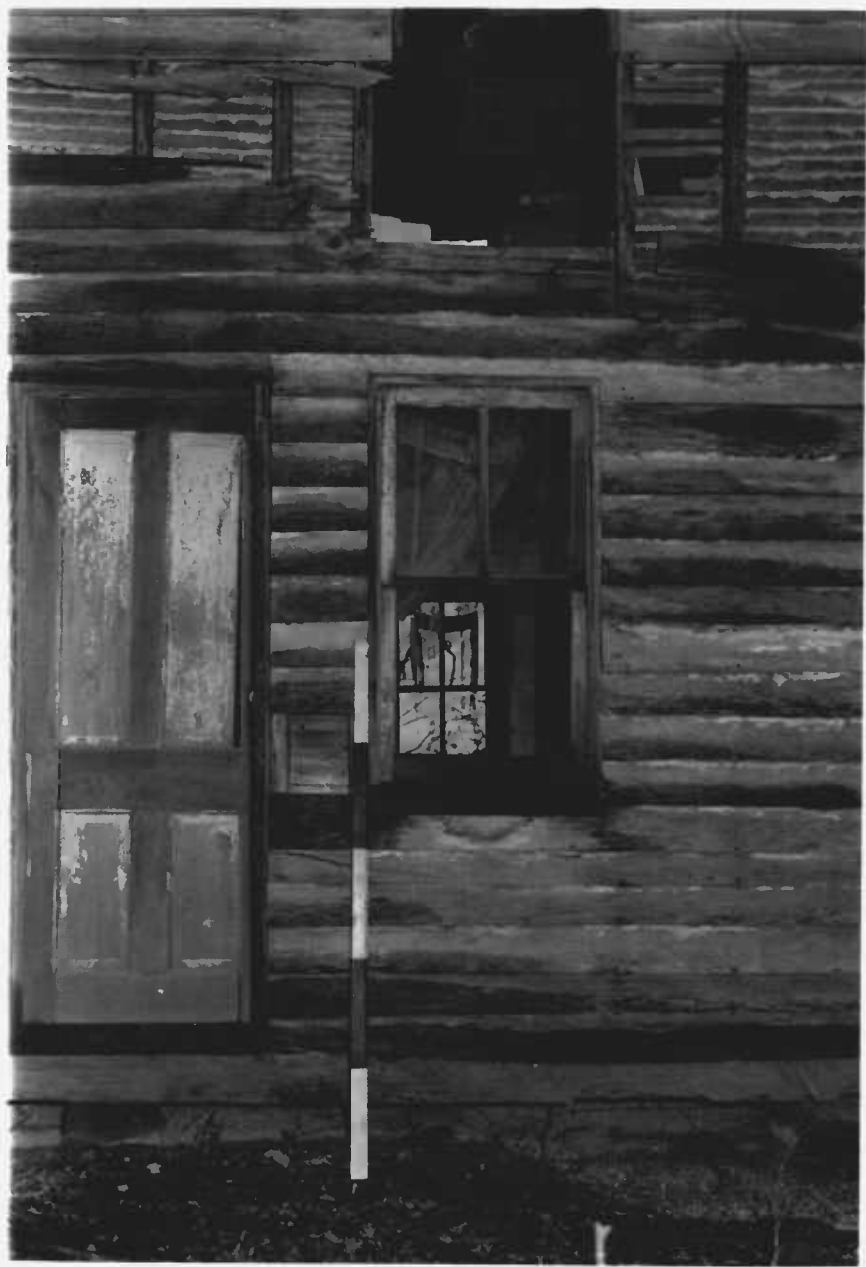
CLXT - III

New View

mat ad. md.

G. W. M.

11/19/6



CT-III

Alex & Sarah <sup>Rice</sup>  
~~Rice~~  
House

CLXT-III

Facade of new  
block

mutual, ind.

Gum.

11/96



Alex & Sarah  
Rice House

CLXT - III

Mantle & Fireplace  
1 original  
block

mutual, md

8 w m



2nd house

CLVT - III

# S.W. Elev.

2nd Republic vol.

11/76

GUM





Alex Rice House

CLVT-III

Sitting Room Interior  
Part Republican

11/76